

Claims

1. A glass washing machine, comprising:
 - a) a conveyor for moving a glass sheet along a path of travel at a controlled linear speed; and
 - b) a brush rotatable at a controlled rotational speed positioned along said path of travel such that said brush contacts the glass sheet moves along said path of travel, wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are variable and one of said linear speed and said rotational speed is dependent on any other of said linear speed and said rotational speed.
2. The glass washing machine of claim 1 wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are controlled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
3. The glass washing machine of claim 1 wherein said linear speed is controlled with a user input device and said rotational speed is dependent on said linear speed.
4. The glass washing machine of claim 1 wherein said linear speed is variable over a range of speeds and said rotational speed is variable over a range of rotational speeds.
5. The washing machine of claim 4 wherein the rotational speed is fixed for linear speed of the conveyor less than a threshold and varies over a range of rotation speeds for conveyor speeds equal to or greater than said threshold..
6. The glass washing machine of claim 4 wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are controlled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
7. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 1, wherein said conveyor and said brush are mechanically coupled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.

8. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 1, wherein said linear speed is controlled by controlling voltage applied to a conveyor drive motor and said rotational speed is controlled by controlling a voltage applied to a brush drive motor.
9. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 8, wherein said voltage applied to said brush drive motor is dependent on the voltage applied to the conveyor drive motor.
10. A glass washing machine, comprising:
 - a) a conveyor for moving a glass sheet along a path of travel at a controlled linear speed;
 - b) a conveyor drive motor for driving said conveyor at said linear speed wherein said linear speed is controlled by controlling voltage applied to said conveyor drive motor;
 - c) a brush rotatable at a controlled rotational speed positioned along said path of travel such that said brush contacts the glass sheet moves along said path of travel;
 - d) a brush motor for driving said brush at said rotational speed wherein said rotational speed is controlled by controlling voltage applied to said brush drive motor;
 - e) a user input device for adjusting said linear speed, wherein said rotational speed is dependent on said linear speed.
11. The glass washing machine of claim 10 wherein the conveyor drive motor and the brush motor are electronically coupled.

12. The glass washing machine of claim 10 wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are controlled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
13. The glass washing machine of claim 10 wherein said linear speed is continuously variable over a range of linear speeds and said rotational speed is continuously variable over a range of rotational speeds.
14. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 10, wherein said voltage applied to said brush drive motor is dependent on the voltage applied to the conveyor drive motor.
15. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 10, wherein the ratio of voltage applied to said conveyor drive motor relative to the voltage applied to said brush drive motor is about 2:1.
16. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 10, wherein said linear speed is from about 1 to 30 feet per minute and said rotational speed is from about 90 to 644 revolutions per minute.
17. The washing machine of claim 10 wherein the rotational speed is fixed for linear speed of the conveyor less than a threshold and varies over a range of rotation speeds for conveyor speeds equal to or greater than said threshold..
18. A method for washing glass sheets comprising:
 - a) moving a glass sheet along a path of travel at a controlled linear speed;
and
 - b) contacting said glass sheet with a brush rotatable at a controlled rotational speed positioned along said path of travel wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are variable and one of said linear speed and said

rotational speed is dependent on any other of said linear speed and said rotational speed.

19. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 18 wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are controlled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
20. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 18 wherein said linear speed is controlled with a user input device and said rotational speed is dependent on said linear speed.
21. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 18 wherein said linear speed is continuously variable over a range of linear speeds and said rotational speed is continuously variable over a range of rotational speeds.
22. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 21 wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are controlled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
23. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 18, wherein said conveyor and said brush are mechanically coupled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
24. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 18, wherein said linear speed is controlled by controlling voltage applied to a conveyor drive motor and said rotational speed is controlled by controlling a voltage applied to a brush drive motor.
25. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 24, wherein said voltage applied to said brush drive motor is dependent on the voltage applied to the conveyor drive motor.
26. The method of claim 18 wherein the rotational speed of the brush is fixed for

linear speed of the conveyor less than a threshold and varies over a range of rotation speeds for conveyor speeds equal to or greater than said threshold..

27. A method for washing glass sheets comprising:
 - a) moving a glass sheet with a conveyor along a path of travel at a controlled linear speed;
 - b) contacting said glass sheet with a plurality of brushes rotatable at a controlled rotational speed as the glass sheet moves along said path of travel; and
 - c) adjusting said controlled linear speed by adjusting a user input device wherein said rotational speed is dependent on said linear speed.
28. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 24 wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are controlled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
29. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 24 wherein said linear speed is continuously variable over a range of linear speeds and said rotational speed is continuously variable over a range of rotational speeds.
30. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 25 wherein said linear speed and said rotational speed are controlled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
31. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 24 wherein said conveyor and said plurality of brushes are mechanically coupled to maintain a constant ratio of the linear speed to the rotational speed.
32. The method of washing glass sheets of claim 24 wherein said linear speed is controlled by controlling voltage applied to a conveyor drive motor and said

rotational speed is controlled by controlling a voltage applied to a brush drive motor.

33. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 29, wherein said voltage applied to said brush drive motor is dependent on the voltage applied to the conveyor drive motor.
34. The glass sheet washing machine of claim 24, wherein said linear speed is from about 1 to 30 feet per minute and said rotational speed is from about 90 to 644 revolutions per minute.